

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINTS, PINT, SHUM, CI
SUBJECT: HUNGER STRIKE RENEWED -- BRIEFLY

REF: SANTIAGO 6608

1. MID-DAY SEPTEMBER 7 SIXTEEN-SEVENTEEN RELATIVES OF
DISAPPEARED CHILEANS ATTEMPTED TO RENEW THEIR HUNGER
STRIKE IN A LOCAL CHURCH. THEY WERE PERSUADED BY THE
LOCAL PRIESTS TO LEAVE THAT CHURCH AND EVENTUALLY FOUND
REFUGE IN ANOTHER. THE GROUP ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAD
REINITIATED THE HUNGER STRIKE BECAUSE OF THE CHILEAN
GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THEIR
MISSING NEXT OF KIN. THE VICARIATE OF SOLIDARITY, IN
RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS, SAID IT HAD NO FOREKNOWLEDGE
OF THE HUNGER STRIKE.

2. MINISTER OF INTERIOR FERNANDEZ PUBLICLY DESCRIBED
THE HUNGER STRIKE AS ANOTHER ELEMENT IN A PLOT BY MARXISTS
AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE GOVERNMENT.
HE STATED THAT HE HAD SPOKEN WITH TWENTY FIVE OF THE
RELATIVES IN SEPARATE, PRIVATE INTERVIEWS AND WOULD SPEAK
TO OTHERS BUT THAT HE WOULD NOT MEET WITH THE ORGANIZED
GROUP OF RELATIVES.
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3. MID-DAY SEPTEMBER 8 THE STRIKERS HELD A PRESS CON-
FERENCE ANNOUNCING SUSPENSION OF THEIR STRIKE AT THE
REQUEST OF "THE CHURCH, LAWYERS AND WORKERS".

4. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH MEMBERS OF THE RELATIVES' ORGANIZA-
TION WHO SAID THEY HAD SUSPENDED THE PROTEST AT THE

REQUEST OF THE COUNCIL OF BISHOPS. THEY SAID THEY KNEW
OF NO ONE WHO HAD MET PRIVATELY WITH FERNANDEZ.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FERNANDEZ' SECOND PUBLIC REFERENCE
TO PRIVATE MEETINGS WITH NEXT OF KIN. AS REPORTED REFTTEL,
FERNANDEZ ALLEGEDLY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE MISSING WERE IN
FACT DEAD.

6. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE ABORTIVE CURRENT ATTEMPT TO RENEW
THE STRIKE WAS UNDERTAKEN BY FIREBRANDS AMONG THE RELATIVES'
ORGANIZATION AND THAT IT WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.
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